

Silent Key.

It is with regret that we begin this week, with news of a silent key.

The Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club have advised of the passing of their friend and fellow club member Doug McEachern [mac-EKern] VK2DKM, on the 14th of July, aged 72 years, following a brief illness.

Doug was a regular on the club's weekly Thursday night net; he was always first to call in when the net started and always had plenty to contribute. Doug was a long-standing member of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club and most recently, he served on the committee in 2017. It was rare for him to miss a meeting or an important club event, and he was also keen to attend social events with his friends from the club.

Doug's service will be held on Tuesday 23rd of July at 1:30pm, in the South Chapel of Forest Lawn Memorial Park, 1625 Camden Valley Way, Leppington.

Please pause with us, while we remember Doug.

[pause 5 seconds]

Vale [va-LAY] Doug McEachern VK2DKM.

*Advised by Peter VK2PR
on behalf of the Fisher's Ghost Amateur Radio Club.*

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In the news from Amateur Radio New South Wales for this week;

Next Sunday is the July ARNSW Trash & Treasure here at Dural, with the usual range of activities and the usual BBQ.

Besides all the treasure available, there are still a few 2019 WIA callbooks available. Membership applications can be made on the day and existing members can renew, or apply for a membership badge. A Justice of the Peace will also be in attendance; members looking for a JP to witness statutory declarations or to certify copies of original documents, just need to look out for Bob VK2TG. Guest WiFi access is now available for members on site; details on how to connect, are posted on the site notice boards.

Parking at the last T&T with the WIA AGM went well, so we ask that visitors make full use of the space, including that to the east of the VK2WI building. The policy of no parking on the new turf continues, so boot sellers will operate at the road end of Centenary Building. The Library may also be open, check with ARNSW volunteers on the day.

The third quarter broadcast roster has been released. Anyone with an interest in helping out, can register by email to news@arnsw.org.au.

A request that anyone wishing to contact VK2WI during the news transmission should call the VK2WI engineering phone number, which is 02 9651 1489; please do not call when callbacks are being taken, as the operator is generally quite busy. Calls to the office phone go to another location, which is generally unattended during the News bulletin.

If you wish to leave a message on the office phone, the system will notify our volunteers that you called; so that the right person can get back to you promptly, please include a short description of the nature of your enquiry, along with your contact details.

Today is the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. While it may seem like a long time ago, some may also remember, that it was only about a year before that amateur radio repeaters had become legal in Australia.

Education Update

Last Sunday, the ARNSW education team ran licence examinations, with eight candidates sitting for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced amateur examinations.

The next Foundation Course and examinations at ARNSW, will be on the weekend of the 14th and 15th of September. For more information, contact the ARNSW education team by email, education@arnsw.org.au.

On the subject of licence examinations; interest in obtaining US amateur licences continues, with an exam session in Perth last week seeing four candidates. There will be a Sydney session for US licences here at VK2WI Dural, on Sunday the 25th of August, starting at 9am. For more information, visit the Oz-VE group website, veexams.com.

ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group

The next meeting of the group is at noon, next Sunday the 28th of July, after the Trash and Treasure – here at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Rd Dural.

This month, we will have a different type of meeting. There will not be a single presenter, but a joint effort by all those attending.

The topic for the day is "There are NO SILLY QUESTIONS!"

Everyone attending is asked to think of one or more questions that they really want to know the answer to, but can't find a simple answer. There is a vast collective knowledge among the usual visitors to these meetings, which should cover most if not all questions that anyone could ask.

So, if you want the answer to a question that has been nagging you for years, or just to learn the answer to a question you haven't even asked, then come along to the meeting.

The meeting starts with the usual "Show and Tell" segment where members of the audience get up to show some project that they have been working on.

So come to the trash and treasure in the morning and stay for the Radio Experimenters Group meeting at noon—at VK2WI, 63 Quarry Road Dural, next Sunday the 28th of July.

You have one week to think of the question....

*Advised by Peter VK2EMU
Coordinator, ARNSW Radio Experimenters Group*

Weekly Solar and Geophysical Report

For the period of the 12th to the 18th of July.

First, the summary;

Dates across the columns are	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th
10cm flux	67	66	67	67	67	68	67
Fredericksburg Index (Afr)	5	6	6	8	5	8	4 estimated
Australian Index (Aaus)	4	5	2	4	3	3	2 estimated
T index	-5	-4	-4	-2	-3	-6	-5

Solar activity was very low all week.

Geomagnetic activity was at quiet to unsettled levels on the 12 and 13th, quiet on the 14th, again quiet to unsettled on the 15th, then remaining quiet from the 16th to the 18th.

F2 critical frequencies in the southern Australian region were near predicted during local daylight hours, all week. However, some enhanced conditions were observed at night; 15% enhancement on the 12th, 40% on the 14th, and 15% during local night on the 17th.

Now, the forecast for the 19th to the 25th of July;

Solar activity is expected to be very low.

Geomagnetic activity is expected to be mostly quiet.

Maximum Usable Frequencies should remain mostly near predicted monthly values.

Data courtesy of Space Weather Services.

Solar Flux Index update

Here are the updated Solar Flux Index (SFI) figures for this week.

In June, the figures were a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 68, and a Maximum of 70
With peak dates from the 1st to the 13th

So far for July, we have a;

Minimum of 66, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 68
With peak dates from the 10th the 11th, and the 20th to the 28th

And looking ahead to the prediction for August, we are expecting a;

Minimum of 67, Average of 67, and a Maximum of 67
With no peak prediction yet, due to the low value of solar flux.

Update with thanks to Noel, VK2FUL.

[using daily data updates from :
<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/usaf-45-day-ap-and-f107cm-flux-forecast>]

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What use is an F-call?

Tonight, we continue with the series, written and produced by Onno VK6FLAB. Each episode looks at different aspects of the diverse hobby of Amateur Radio.

[Play File: E-FCAL054.wav]

Duration: 1m47s

In: "What use is an F-call?"

Out: "I'm Onno vk6flab"

For more information about this series, including transcripts and useful resources for F-calls, Onno's website is; vk6flab.com, or follow him on Twitter, @VK6FLAB.

ARRL DX news

MALTA; A large group of operators are active as 1A0C until July 21. Activity is on 80 to 6 metres using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 with three stations active.

GEORGIA; Peter, G4ENL is now living in Tbilisi for the next few years and plans to be active as 4L/G4ENL. Activity is on various HF bands using SSB.

TANZANIA; Fabian, DF3XY plans to be active as 5H1XY from Zanzibar Island, IOTA AF-032. Activity will be on various HF bands. His length of stay is unknown.

THE GAMBIA; Przemek, SP3PS plans to be active as C5SP from Sanyang from July 23 to August 5. Activity will be on 20 to 6 metres using SSB and FT8.

MOROCCO; A group of operators plan to be active as 5C9A on Los Farallones Island, IOTA AF-118, a new IOTA, from July 25 to 30. They plan to be active on the HF bands with up to three stations active.

CAPE VERDE; Lukas, HB9EBT will be active as D44TEG from Sao Tiago, IOTA AF-005, from July 22 to 29. Activity will be on 40 to 10 metres using only CW.

BALEARIC ISLANDS; Andy, DK5ON, is active as EA6/DK5ON from Mallorca Island, IOTA EU-004, until July 26. Activity is holiday style on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes some possible EAFF and SOTA/GMA activities as well.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS; After his Tahiti activity, Oliver, W6NV will be active as TX2A from Raivavae, IOTA OC-114, from July 23 to 29. This includes an entry in the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest.

SARDINIA; Richard, OM2TW plans to be active as IS0/OM2TW until August 3. Activity will be holiday style on 80 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes an entry in the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest.

ASIATIC RUSSIA; Vladimir, UA0LCZ will be active as R66IOTA from Popov Island, IOTA AS-066, from July 22 to 31.

FERNANDO DE NORONHA; Operators Julio, PP2BT and Renner, PY7RP plan to be active as PY0F from July 22 to 28. Activity will be on 160 to 10 metres using CW, SSB and various digital modes. This includes an entry in the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest.

GREECE; Members of the Thessaloniki Amateur Radio Group will be active with special call signs SV94THEO, SV94MIKIS, SX94THEO and SX94MIKIS until July 29 to celebrate the 94th birthday of Greek musician Mikis Theodorakis.

CANADA; Operators WA4YIZ, KA2BEC and VE2DX will be active with special call sign VX2A11 from Iles de Madeleine, IOTA NA-038, from July 23 to 30 to commemorate the Apollo 11 mission.

AUSTRALIA; Members of the Tablelands Radio and Electronics Club are active as VI50ML until July 21, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first Moon landing.

MEXICO; XE3N is active with special call 6E6M until July 24. Activity is mostly on 6 metres using SSB and various digital modes. This includes an entry in the CQ World Wide VHF contest.

VIETNAM; Sven, HB9DXB will be active as XV9DXB for two to three weeks. Activity will be on 80, 40, 20 and 15 metres using CW and SSB.

VANUATU; Geoff, ZL3GA will be active as YJ0GA near Efate, IOTA OC-035, from July 21 to August 2. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and FT8. This includes being an in the upcoming RSGB IOTA contest.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The North American RTTY QSO Party, CQ Worldwide VHF Contest, QRP 20-Metre CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, Russian Radio Team Championship, Trans-Tasman Low-Bands Challenge, Feld Hell Sprint, RSGB Low Power CW Contest and CQC 20-Metre CW Great Colorado Gold Rush are all on this weekend.

The Run for the Bacon QRP CW Contest is scheduled for July 22. The CWops Mini-CWT Test, SKCC CW Sprint and Phone Fray, are scheduled for July 24.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, event runs throughout 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

WICEN News

Operators and an event commander are sought for the Kangaroo Valley - Remexio Partnership's **Trek for Timor** on Saturday, September 14. This important event funds educational development, a community loan system, and support for land and water issues. See kvrp.net.au for details.

WICEN is also looking for extra operators, and a volunteer for even commander, for the Hounslow Classic, a running event in the upper Blue Mountains, on September 28 & 29.

The next WICEN training session here at VK2WI Dural, is on August 4th; in the meantime, members are encouraged to take advantage of the free courses offered by the Office of Emergency Management.

The WICEN website is at nsw.wicen.org.au and includes a web contact form. Facebook users will find an official WICEN NSW page, and an informal national WICEN group.

The WICEN Mid North Coast Region meets at 3:30pm on the first Saturday of the month, at SES HQ, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The region is also running an HF net on Thursday evenings from 7pm, on the band-plan's 80 metre WICEN frequency of 3.6MHz.

WICEN ACT is part of the Canberra Region Amateur Radio Club, supporting events in the ACT and Capital Country, and on the South Coast of NSW. August 6th is the BMSC Narooma Rally; and the ACTERA Brookvale Horse Endurance Ride is September 2nd and 3rd, on the North-West border of the Territory. For more information, see the WICEN and Events pages on www.crarc.ampr.org.

WICEN Victoria will be supporting the Eureka Rush on August 24th and 25th, held around Beaufort, near Ballarat. The weekly net is on each Tuesday at 8:30 to 9:30 pm, on 3.6MHz. More information on WICEN Victoria, including reports on recent events, can be found on the website, vic.wicen.org.au.

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Club News

We start this week, with news from the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club. The next meeting is the AGM, at 2pm on Saturday the 3rd of August, in the SES Building, Central Road, Port Macquarie. The August Monthly General Meeting will take place after the conclusion of the AGM.

Club membership renewals for the 2019 – 2020 year are now due. Members who have not yet renewed are asked to please do so promptly.

Candidates for Foundation, Standard and Advanced Licences should contact the club via PO Box 712 Port Macquarie NSW 2444 regarding training and assessments; the first assessments under the new arrangements will be held soon.

The club conducts two nets each week; the mid-week net starts at 7:30pm on Thursday nights, and the weekend net starts at 9am on Sunday mornings. Both nets are on the VK2RPM 2 metre repeater on 146.7MHz, which requires a 91.5Hz sub-audible tone for access.

Visitors are always made very welcome at the club's monthly general meetings at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month, and at the Friday night gathering at 7pm on the evening of the third Friday of each month. The venue for all these meetings is the SES Building in Port Macquarie.

For more information about the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club, visit the website at orarc.org. The site contains a wealth of Amateur Radio items in addition to club information. The July 2019 issue of the club's bimonthly newsletter, Oxtales, is now online, and past issues are available on the website as well. The July issue of Oxtales reports in detail on the recent club Field Day, in words and pictures. The club is also on Facebook; just search for ORARC.

*Submitted by Henry VK2ZHE
For the Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club.*

Central Coast Amateur Radio Club

The next Central Coast WICEN meeting will be held at the clubrooms on Saturday the 10th of August and all are invited, whether a WICEN member or not.

There will not be a Club lecture on the 17th August, due to the Annual General Meeting; there are plenty of positions to be filled.

Looking further ahead, the Shahzada [*sha-ZAR-da*] 400km Horse Enduro will be as usual on the last full week of August, being held over the 25th to 31st. Although not an official Club event, many members take part in it; you can turn up for a day or so, or the full week, and you will have fun (especially those with four-wheel drives).

All meetings of the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club are at the Clubrooms in Dandaloo St, Kariong, just past the fire station. Meetings start at 1pm, preceded by the famous sausage sizzle run by master chef Steve VK2SKC, from noon, followed by Karen VK2AKB's home cooking; a specialty being her homemade cakes and pikelets.

The Clubrooms are accessible by bus, with a stop just opposite Dandaloo St, serviced by the route 34 bus from Gosford railway station every hour; and one can usually arrange a lift back. The Clubrooms are usually open from 10.30am on Saturday, for general chit-chat and access to the Club workshop and library.

The Club also conducts Foundation training on an as-required basis, and a new course is coming up soon, once details of the new licencing arrangements are finalised.

The Club relays VK2WI News every Sunday morning and evening. Callbacks are taken after the morning news only, on the Somersby 6 and 2m repeaters VK2RAG on 53.725 and 146.725 MHz respectively; both repeaters require the standard sub-audible tone of 91.5 Hz.

The 70cm VK2RAG repeater on 439.950 MHz, is a mixed-mode repeater; currently supporting analogue FM and P25, with IRLP and Echolink access coming soon. A 91.5 Hz tone is required for analogue access, and highly recommended for receiving.

Along with these, there is a packet radio BBS on 147.6 MHz, as VK2EHQ; it can also be accessed via the digipeater VK2RAG-1; old-timers will know how to use it.

There is a net every Thursday from 8pm, on the 2m repeater VK2RAG on 146.725; all members are encouraged to join, especially if Club news for the ARNSW broadcast is involved. There is also an experimental HF net on 80m, but as it is difficult to find a free frequency, the frequency will be announced on the VHF net prior.

Club news is happily accepted at publicity@ccarc.org.au, preferably by noon on Friday. Listeners can “join” the net by email to netmaster@ccarc.org.au and their comments will be read out.

The Club also has a Facebook page: look for “centralcoastarc” and be sure to “like” it to receive further updates. There is also a Twitter account on @ccarclub [“At CC AR Club”], and a YouTube channel of the weekly streaming world-wide news via several modes which is proving to be quite popular, especially with Amateurs both interstate and overseas.

Further information about the Central Coast Amateur Radio Club can be found on the website, www.ccarc.org.au.

*Dave VK2KFU
Publicity Officer, Central Coast Amateur Radio Club.*

Hunter Radio Group

The group's Bi-annual Social Luncheon is coming up next Saturday, the 27th of July.

The Location is the Windale Bowling Club, Lake Road, Windale, starting time 12 noon.

Bookings are required, so please contact club President, Len VK2ZFD, on 4957 7785 to advise of your attendance.

*Regards from Rodney VK2CN
Secretary, Hunter Radio Group.*

Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club

The Club's next Amateur Radio Training weekend is scheduled for the 10th and 11th of August. While the main activity on the weekend is providing Foundation licence training, examinations for a Standard or Advanced licence can also be made available.

If you are interested in taking part, you can contact the Education Officer by email, to education@bmarc.org for more information. Please let us know as soon as possible, so that exam packs can be ordered and assessors informed.

*Irene VK2VAN
Secretary, Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club*

St George Amateur Radio Society

Back by popular demand; the Society is pleased to announce the 2019 80-metre Trophy Contest.

On Saturday evening the 27th of July 2019, the society will be holding an 80 metre contest. The victor will join the legion of SGARS' 80 metre immortals.

The contest runs from 6pm until midnight, local Sydney time – a total of of 6 hours. Mark it in your calendar and listen out on 80 metres; if you hear the call of “CQ Contest” from a VK2; that will probably be them!

For more information - and contest rules - visit the website www.sgars.org and click on the events link; or contact the SGARS contest manager, Ken by email to; vk2bbq@wia.org.au.

Hornsby and Districts Amateur Radio Club

The next meeting of the club is on this Tuesday the 23th of July, starting at 8pm. The meeting will feature a series of short talks. The meeting is at Mt Colah Community Centre, near the northern end of Pierre Close, opposite the eastern entrance of Mt Colah Station. It's also close to the 598 and 595 buses, from Hornsby.

The Club runs three nets each week, including on public holidays. Monday's net starts at 8pm on the VK2RNS 2 metre repeater, 147.250MHz No tone is required, but a 91.5 Hz tone is sent. The 80 metre net is on Wednesday evenings on 3608.5 kHz, also from 8pm, and Morning Tea with HADARC is on or near 7106 kHz from 9am on Fridays.

HADARC's website is at www.hadarc.org.au. The club has a group on Facebook, which can be found by searching for VK2MA, and on twitter, @VK2MA.

*Submitted by Julian VK2YJS
HADARC Publicity Officer.*

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Summary of coming events;

July

HADARC monthly meeting on the 23rd
Hunter Radio Group Bi-annual Social Luncheon on the 27th
St George 80 Metre Trophy contest on the 27th
ARNSW Trash & Treasure and Radio Experimenters Group on the 28th
Fishers Ghost ARC meeting on the 31st

August

Blue Mountains ARC Meeting on the 2nd
BMARC 3D Printing Demo on the 3rd
Oxley region ARC AGM and monthly meeting on the 3rd
Waverley ARS project day on the 3rd
WICEN training day at ARNSW on the 4th
Waverley ARS shack night on the 7th
Central Coast WICEN meeting on the 10th
BMARC education weekend, 10th and 11th
Central Coast ARC AGM on the 17th
Waverley ARS meeting on the 21st
United States licence exams at ARNSW on the 25th
Shahzada horse Enduro, a WICEN event, from the 26th to the 30th
Waverley ARS Foundation course bookings close on the 31st

September

BMARC Monthly Meeting on the 6th
ARNSW Foundation Course and licence exams on the 14th and 15th
Waverley ARS Foundation and Assessments, September 14th and 15th